

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 084175

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084175

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 84175 ACTION NEW DELHI 12 APR 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084175

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: EFIN, OVIP, IN (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REPLY TO SIMON'S LETTER DATED APRIL 7.

FOR SECRETARY SIMON FROM THE SECRETARY.

1. DEAR BILL: I HAVE YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 7 ON THE INDIAN DEBT RESCHEDULING QUESTION. FROM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR, I SHARE YOUR HOPE THAT WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE FOR THE PROPOSED SCENARIO ENABLING US TO AVOID DEBT RESCHEDULING THIS YEAR WHILE PERMITTING OTHERS TO CONTINUE. YOUR MDTING WITH INDIAN FINANCE MINISTER SUBRAMANIAN IN DELHI NDMT WEEK WILL HOPEFULLY FURTHER THE PROCESS OF WINNING INDIAN SUPPORT FOR OUR APPROACH. I LOOK FORWARD TO READING REPORT.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 084175

2. AS BILL SAXBE WILL I AM SURE TELL YOU, YOU ARE VISITING INDIA WHEN OUR RELATIONS, ON THE POLITICAL SIDE AT LEAST, HAVE BEEN SET BACK BY THE PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE INDIAN REACTION TO OUR LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO. NONETHELESS, THE INDIAN REACTION WAS SUFFICIENTLY RESTRAINED TO MAINTAIN A BASIS FOR CONTINUING A MUTUAL EFFORT TO BUILD MORE REALISTIC AND MATURE TIES. I STRESSED OUR INTEREST IN BETTER RELATIONS IN MY LETTERS TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN OF FEBRUARY 19 AND 27, WHICH I AM ASKING BILL SAXBE

TO REVIEW WITH YOU. WHEN YOU SEE CHAVAN, PLEASE GIVE HIM MY REGARDS AND REITERATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THE MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE.

3. FROM YOUR SCHEDULE, I SEE YOU AND MRS. SIMON WILL BE HAVING TEA WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI. PLEASE CONVEY TO HER THE PRESIDENT'S AND MY OWN WARM REGARDS. I WOULD RECOMMEND YOU KEEP THE DISCUSSION WITH HER AT A FAIRLY GENERAL LEVEL, EMPHASIZING OUR INTEREST IN SEEKING GLOBAL SOLUTIONS TO TODAY'S MASSIVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES FACED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA. I WOULD AVOID GETTING INTO TECHNICAL ECONOMIC ISSUES SUCH AS DEBT RESCHEDULING. SHE IS NOT WELL VERSED ON THESE MATTERS AND WILL IN ANY EVENT BE GUIDED BY WHAT HER FINANCE MINISTER RECOMMENDS ON THE QUESTION. I ALSO FEEL STRONGLY YOU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THE DEBT RELIEF ISSUE IN YOUR SPEECH IN BOMBAY OR IN ANY OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHILE IN INDIA. OUR PROSPECTS FOR A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION ARE BETTER IF WE KEEP THE DEBT RESCHEDULING ISSUE IN PRIVATE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT CHANNELS AND NOT GO PUBLIC AT THIS TIME.

4. HAVE A GOOD WEEK IN INDIA AND IN SRI LANKA. I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING YOUR IMPRESSIONS WHEN YOU RETURN.

5. WARM REGARDS HENRY. KISSINGER
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KISSINGER
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PAGE 03 STATE 084175

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